TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In The Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

Appomattox, Virginia

ESTABLISHED 1892

Calvin H. Robinson — — Editor and Publisher

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EDITORIALS

LENGTH OF SESSION

It is incredible that men should be expected to cast considered votes on the mass of bills sped through the Virginia General Assembly in its hurried two-month session every two years. Two months every two years is woefully inadequate to give to running the Commonwealth of Virginia. Legislation is rammed through with inadequate public hearings and with virtually no opportunity for debate, and matters concerning the lives and property of three million people are made into playthings.

Examples pile up one dares not start on making a list.

Not many months ago the voters of Virginia were "told" that it was necessary to vote "yes" on proposed constitutional amendment changes in the matter of the franchise, that the poll tax "must" be done away with and the voters should accept the curious and highly questionable "package" offered them. The voters could not swallow the "package" and turned down the amendments. Now: what has the General Assembly done about repealing the poll tax? We wonder if the plan was to repeal the poll tax or to get in the accessories in the amendment plan?

The matter of absent voters laws has been handled about and whenever the law has been amended, it seems to make it none the harder to build up fantastic mail vote totals. We say it in all sincerity: there is no acceptable reason why ten per cent of the total vote of a county should be represented by mail votes. But the General Assembly does not have time conduct full hearings on this problem nor to debate the problem. Consequently it often happens that some sort of a bill is passed making a few changes in the voting laws, but few ever are satisfied and a sound legislation has resulted. Many weeks, perhaps many months of study should precede action.

Cities and counties vie for more revenue to meet increased demands for services. Annexation is tied in with this, for whenever an area is annexed by a city, a county loses tax income (and gains in letting the cities service the needs of suburban citizens) - but adequate studies are not to be made during the brief session of the Assembly. This one matter could be debated for the full months to the exclusion of everything else.

Likewise the appropriation bill! Most important action of a session, yet hearings and debate are woefully inadequate; especially debate. When the Senate Finance Committee finally gets the bill on the floor, it leaves Senators little time to study and debate before they have to vote.

The weakness of the system is revealed in the vast sums carried over from year to year in "conditional appropriations."

Yet how could the legislators do better in the time available?

And so one could go on and on. We believe the legislature of Virginia should be in session at least two months each year or four months every other year, and that the compensation of members should be adequate for them to spare that much time.

Having said that, we will now say that we think the Federal Congress stays in session too much of the time! Congressmen from distant states are physically unable to spend enough time at the "grass roots". Lobbyists carry too much influence. To read a public opinion poll is no substitute for getting back home and listening to the people! We know of able men who go to Washington and start out as great Congressmen or Senators; but gradually they lose touch with the farmer, the worker, the business man; and end their careers wondering how voters could be so ungrateful as to elect someelse!

Two months in two years is not enough. Nearly constant sessions are too much!

Let us conclude on this note: We sincerely think that each and every member of the House of Delegates and of the State Senate, as well as of the national Congress, does as amazing job and deserves thanks for how many fine things are done and how few mistakes are made! We do mean that. The boys earn every bit of cash and honor they receive and more, too. We have nothing against any of them; we respect them all. But we think the State would gain if things were not done in such haste at Richmond; and that the Congress should have more time to relax and meet the people!

THE BYRD COMMITTEE

It is our opinion that Senator Hubert Humphrey, of Minnesota, is on the wrong track when he seeks to do away with the economy committee headed by Virginia's Senator Harry Byrd.

The Byrd Committee has rendered genuine public service in pointing the finger of alarm at mounting costs of government, and the committee should be continued.

The Times-Virginian favors services by the government, but it favors a thorough accounting of all public moneys, and economical administration. The war on waste should never have an armistice!

ON THE JOB!

Mr. H. A. Gurney, National Park Service Superintendent at Old Appomatox Court House, is doing an excellent job of planning the dedication of the McLean House, set for April 16. As a matter of fact, the major portion of the planning is coming from the desk of Mr. Gurney, and the people of Appomattox appreciate his willingness to "go the second mile" with us! We shall gladly follow his lead, and seek to copy his esprit de-corps!

RED CROSS ROLL CALL

Appomattox people will respond to the annual appeal of the American Red Cross and contribute the sum sought. We make that statement because we know that our people appreciate the worth of the Red Cross and wish its services continued. We favor meeting quotas promptly and see no reason for having to extend solicitation unnecessarily. Let's get this worthwhile job behind us.

Letters to The Editor

Editor, Times-Virginian,

Dear Sir:

I believe one of our supervisors, in his article in the last issue of the Times-Virginian, has suggested a plan worthy of consideration.

To have each school represented by three of its patrons on a General School committee is commendable; these citizens would be well equipped with facts. They should, along with the School Board, form the General School committee to appraise the needs of each school, submit their findings to a reliable contractor as to the approximate cost and then publish in our county paper these facts to the citizens of the county. And as Mr. Crawley has suggested, consult the county clerk as to what this school improvement will cost the taxpayer in additional taxes.

I believe that if these facts are presented squarely to the taxpayers of Appomattox County, that they will be cooperative in advancing a program of better education for their children, the citizens of tomorrow who will preserve democracy or become slaves to the well educated minority.

If the local government does not take some initiative of its own free will to advance education in our public schools, we are going to lose that freedom. The federal government will eventually step in, pass out funds along with instructions regarding their use. You gradually lose your freedom of speech and still pay the bill through withholding taxes. Think it over friends, and write or talk with your supervisor. He respects your opinion, and most naturally wants to abide by the wishes of the majority of his people.

Mrs. O. W. Martin, Jr.

WITH OTHER EDITORS

NO RETROACTIVE TAX

(Petersburg Progress-Iindex)

Certain life insurance companies are raising a protest against a bill which has been approved by the ways and means committee of the House of Representatives to impose a new tax on life insurance company "income" for the years 1947, 1948, and 1949. What effect the tax if enacted would have upon their policy holders we do not know, but whether the tax is good or bad, justifiable or unjustifiable, is almost beside the point. The point is that any tax levied for the years 1947 and 1948, if not 1949, is beyond shadow of doubt a retroactive tax.

If taxes can be levied upon life insurance companies on their earnings of two years ago, they could be imposed upon any other type of business on the same basis. What (except politics) would prevent the Congress from deciding that personal income taxes had been made too low for past years and should be subjected to a retroactive increase?

The provisions of the tax which has received committee approval without gaining much publicity may be reasonable as taxes go, but whatever they are they are clearly in violation of the tradition against retroactive taxes. That is enough to make the committee's action surprising and alarming. No business which has computed its profits and losses for a given year, paid its dividends and set up its surplus and reserves, should be subjected to a retroactive tax. Under those circumstances, it becomes, as one of the protests says, a tax on property rather than income. That would be a violation of the spirit, and we should think, of the letter of the ban which the Constitution places upon ex post facto laws.

Senator Bricker, of Ohio, opposes plan to set up alternate national capitol, in event of an atomic air attack on Washington.

Big Federal appropriation bill to face economy uprising.

North Carolina State Basketball wins the Southern Conference tournament.

British Parliament is now in session.

Bills piled up for action final days of sessions of the Assembly of Virginia.

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SABOTAGE!

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

The New York Times seems to be getting its crises mixed. At the end of a long report about a new State department directive on Germany the other day, the paper said:

"On the question of what attitude Mr. McCloy should take toward the Russians and the Soviet zone of Eastern Germany, the directive declared:

"Don't leave faucets or showers open when they are not actually being used. A drip can waste 15,000 gallons of water a year and a small steady leak can waste 1,000,000 gallons a year."

Is this the leak in the State department the Republicans are talking about?

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Richwood

Richwood, March 8.- "True it is that many people can not cope with their daily problems because they are too much concerned with their neighbors affairs." —Quoted.

Services at Wesley Chapel at 2 P. M. Sunday.

Rev. and Mrs. Tearle Brown and daughter, Carolyn, and Mrs. Powers were all dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt Harvey Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Ferguson and daughter, Mabie; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Williamson were all visitors in the same home on Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Godsey and baby were the guests Sunday afternoon of Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Giles.

Mr. and Mrs. Carter Pankey were visiting with relatives in Lynchburg Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Pugh and Mrs. Jack Hamilton were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Marsh Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Woodridge and daughter, Marvis, and Mr. G. F. Brannan visited Sunday afternoon in Pamplin with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Davis and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Price and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Carter Martin and daughter, Mary Lou, visited with Carter's parents Sunday.

Mr. John Moore left Saturday to spend some time in Tennessee with friends and relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Davis and children and Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Woodall visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Pugh Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Willhoit and mother and father, of Greenville, Tennessee were the week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Willhoit.

Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Joy, of Richmond were the week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Fleshman and Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Joy, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray Arrington, of Richmond spent a few days last week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Arrington.

The citizens of Richwood welcome the latest arrival to the community, a baby girl, born last week to Mr. and Mrs. Willie Pugh.

The community extends its deepest sympathy and condolence to the relatives of Mr. Wm. Fleshman, who died Tuesday morning at 7 o'clock, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Blackwell, Sr.

Evergreen

Evergreen, March 7.- Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Cralle were in Richmond Sunday visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Clapp.

R. P. Harvey spent the week-end at Hopewell with his daughter and little granddaughter.

Those on the sick list this week: J. R. Hamilton, Jack Baker, T. E. LeGrande, Mrs. Tibbs, and Gordon Staples.

Mrs. C. J. Paulette and Mrs. Elijah Farrar called in the home of Mrs. W. C. Garrett Monday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Martin, of Lynchburg were dinner guests with her mother, Mrs. Ruth Clapp Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Paulette and family, of Madison Heights, were dinner guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Paulette.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Puckett and family called in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Paulette recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Farrar and Bob Shanks were dinner guests on Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. John Farrar.

Mrs. Maude Deaner, of Lynchburg spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. LeGrande.

Evergreen, March 7.- Mr. and Mrs A. Tibbs and daughter spent the week-end in Lynchburg with their son and family.

Daniel Jennings, of Christiansburg spent the week-end with his mother, Mrs. Sam Jennings.

Those who visited Mrs. Carl Womack and family were Mr. and Mrs. Grover Barr and son, of Farmville; Mrs. W. L. Womark and girls, of Darlington Heights; Mr. and Mrs. James Womank, Misses Carrie, Elizabeth, Shirley and Mr. Laurence Hodges.

Mr. and Mrs Jack Hodge spent Sunday in Prospect with her people.

Mrs. Howard Glover and daughter, Bessie Ann spent Tuesday night with Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Reynolds and family.

Those visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Warriner over the week-end were Mrs. John Young, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Evans and Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Garrett.

Mrs. A. A. LeGrande and baby, Wanda Kay are out after a spell of flu.

Miss Elnora Glover is on the sick list suffering with an infection in the ear.

Mrs. Harold Hatcher called to see Mrs. J. C. Staples Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. James Griffith, from Richmond and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Thompson, from Lynchburg, and J. W. Glover, of Crewe, all called in the home of Mrs. G. W Glover over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Julian White and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Bernard St. John of Old Well, Va

Mrs. Carter Martin and daughter, Mary Lou visited Mrs. David Garrett and Mrs W. E. Warriner last Thursday.

Liberty Chapel

Liberty Chapel, March 8.- Mrs. L. C. Reynolds, Sr., was hostess Saturday night at a party honoring the third birthday of her son, L. C., Jr. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Coleman and daughter, Brieda; Mr. and Mrs. Russell Martin and daughter, Marlyn; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Martin, Gaynelle Martin, Becky Reynolds, Elmo Gabbitt, Don, Mildred Ann and Alfee Faye Thornhill and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Coleman and daughter, Virginia.

We extend sympathy to Mrs. John W. Gunter at the passing of her aunt, Mrs. Sallie Binkley.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Coleman and daughter, Virginia, spent the day, Sunday with Mrs. Coleman's sister, Miss Rachel Gilbert, of Lynchburg.

Mrs. Marvin Reynolds spent last Thursday in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Jamerson.

Air line told to fly by rule in Yugoslavia.

Brain Specialist Says Top Authors Often off 'Beam'

LONDON.—A London brain specialist has declared that great authors—to say the least—are sometimes "off the beam."

This analysis was made in an article in the British medical journal. The author is Dr. Russell W. Brain.

On the doctor's list of writers who have shown some mental aberrations were some of the great names of English literature: Boswell, Bunyan, Burns, Dickens, Johnson, Lamb, Ruskin, Shelley and Tennyson.

Some were insane, Dr. Brain said, in the sense that they could be certified as such and placed in institutions. Others, while not ready for the asylum, were classified as manic depressives, alcoholics, drug addicts, schizophrenics or "just plain nuts."

The doctor said Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities" bears marks of the author's preoccupation with violence and cruelty, and described this feature as a form of masochism (finding pleasure in pain suffered by one's self).

"Oliver Twist," on the other hand, was helped along by Dickens' hardening of the arteries, the doctor believes. Summing up his case generally, Brain said:

"The genius of literature has higher intelligence, more intense and differentiated feelings, a better memory, and a greater capacity for words than the rest of us. These, presumably, depend upon a quantitatively richer organization of his nervous system. He also has dynamic quality which often seems to raise even his madness to a higher power."

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County of Appomattox Commonwealth of Virginia

A List of tracts of land and town lots returned delinquent for the non-payment of taxes for the year 1947, amount stated includes, tax, penalty, interest and advertising cost. The sale will be held at the Court House at Appomattox, Virginia on Thursday March 16, 1950 at 10 A. M., unless tax is paid before that date.

CLOVER HILL DISTRICT — WHITE

Fore, Elijah P. Est.	43 114A	$3.21
Jones, Wm. D. Est.	239A	$22.31
Naylor, Mazie F. & Heirs	2A	$4.27
Tully, S. L.	6A	$2.24

SOUTHSIDE DISTRICT — WHITE

Appomattox Aquatic Club	2-3A	$2.18
Cheatham, Wm. Est.	5A	$ .84
Farrar, Charles W.	80A	$5.10
Stewart, Duncan	6A	$2.64

STONEWALL DISTRICT — WHITE

Davis, Sarah E.	40A	$3.52
Davis, Thomas W.	24 3-4	$1.91
Harrison, W. D.	56 1-4	$3.49
Hundley, Elijah	11 1-4	$1.12
Steele, W. H.	5A	$1.79

TOWN OF PAMPLIN — WHITE

Will, Irvin H.	Lot	$ .73

CLOVER HILL DISTRICT — COLORED

Cawthorn, Anthony Est.	83A	$12.36
Hancock, A. B.	1A	$4.56
Hancock, A. H.	26A	$2.75
Hancock, Elvira	3A	$1.26
Hancock, W. W.	1-2	$4.87
Hill, Viola, R. H. & Chas. E.	10A	$2.55
Ligon, John R.	1A	$ .64

CLOVER HILL DISTRICT — COLORED

Rice, Eliza	1A	$1.23
Walker, J. D. & M. L.	1-2A	$1.79

SOUTHSIDE DISTRICT — COLORED

Davis, Sam C.	193A	$16.95
Harvey, Catherine E.	3A	$2.42

STONEWALL DISTRICT — COLORED

Lee, John	4A	$ .72
Moore, Henry	4A	$1.60
Robertson, Lucy	3A	$1.29

R. L. BURKE Treasurer of Appomattox County

Appomattox, Virginia

February 9, 1950.

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